

Compromise of 1850

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California becomes a state



In 1849, California petitioned congress to become a Free state. This created a problem because there was currently a balance of Slave and Free states. If they were entered into the union, it would give the North an advantage.

California becomes a state (cont.)

To balance the tension between the northern free states and southern slave states, the south compromised and created the Fugitive Slave Act.

Fugitive Slave Act



*the fugitive act REQUIRED citizens of the North to return all the runaway slaves they found.

it also Denied a fugitive's right to a jury trial so they had no chance at freedom

it said that there would be more officials responsible for enforcing the new law, which means it would be easier for the south to capture their runaways and harder for fugitives to hide

Consequences

North:

- California joined the north and became a free state. There were now more free states than slave states.

South:

- Help was given to the south from the north in the return on runaway slaves.

The Country:

- The slave state vs. free state conflict was temporarily halted.

Tension between North and South

This compromise benefitted the North and the South because the North gained a free state but the South now had a law assisting them in getting their slaves back. Even free Africans could be captured and sold back into slavery because they had no legal rights, which angered the Northern abolitionists

